

**From:** [MichaelA Flagg](#)  
**To:** [Flagg, MichaelA](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: annual network plans, core values  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2013 5:17:26 PM

---

Michael Flagg  
Air Quality Analysis Office  
EPA Region 9  
415.972.3372  
[Flagg.MichaelA@epa.gov](mailto:Flagg.MichaelA@epa.gov)

----- Forwarded by MichaelA Flagg/R9/USEPA/US on 08/14/2013 05:17 PM -----

From: Matthew Lakin/R9/USEPA/US  
To: Katherine Hoag/R9/USEPA/US@EPA,  
Cc: Dena Vallano/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Elfego Felix/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Gwen Yoshimura/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Meredith Kurpius/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, MichaelA Flagg/R9/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 11/16/2012 09:47 AM  
Subject: Re: annual network plans, core values

---

That's a great change. I've been thinking about how to share this with Debbie, and I think I'll probably do so in an informal 1-on-1. It's also great to provide the perspective of the network plan review in the context of the TSA's, data completeness checks, data certification, and QAPPs/QMP. I like that idea, and will use that when I talk with Debbie.

Thanks, Kate! This gives me hope, that at least all of us are moving forward with the same purpose, however this works out.

---

Matthew Lakin, Ph.D.  
Manager, Air Quality Analysis Office  
US EPA, Region 9 (AIR-7) | 75 Hawthorne St. | San Francisco, CA 94105  
P: 415.972.3851 | E: [Lakin.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Lakin.Matthew@epa.gov)

▼ [Katherine Hoag---11/15/2012 04:10:36 PM---Hi Matt - I think this and Meredith's paper have helped immensely in getting our thoughts to converg](#)

From: Katherine Hoag/R9/USEPA/US  
To: Matthew Lakin/R9/USEPA/US@EPA,  
Cc: Dena Vallano/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Elfego Felix/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Gwen Yoshimura/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Meredith Kurpius/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, MichaelA Flagg/R9/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 11/15/2012 04:10 PM  
Subject: Re: annual network plans, core values

---

Hi Matt -

I think this and Meredith's paper have helped immensely in getting our thoughts to converge and get everyone on the same page. I would slightly change your first objective bullet from:

- Our network plan review should serve as a proactive check that agencies continue to collect ~~high quality~~ data meeting CFR requirements (High Quality Data, Transparency, Fairness, Efficiency).

I think ensuring people meet the CFR requirements is what we check, rather than the data is high quality. I think the CFR requirements in general are trying to get at how to collect high quality. While some of them point towards actual data quality (sampling frequency) but others, like performing flow checks) only speak to meeting the CFR requirement, and you would need to check if the results of the flow checks (or how they are performed). I think the activities that check actual data quality are TSAs, Fletcher's completeness check (is the data there?) and perhaps the new certification process if folks start using Mike Papp's QA form.

I know this seems picky, and I agree that high quality data is a good core value, I just am wary of overstating how much our Network Plan review actually speaks to that.

Kate

---

Katherine Hoag, Ph.D.  
U.S. EPA, Region 9  
Air Quality Analysis Office (AIR-7)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Hoag.Katherine@epa.gov  
(415) 972-3970

▼ Matthew Lakin---11/15/2012 01:01:07 PM---Meredith and Team, Meredith shared a draft version of her annual network plan position paper with me

From: Matthew Lakin/R9/USEPA/US  
To: Meredith Kurpius/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Katherine Hoag/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Gwen Yoshimura/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, MichaelA Flagg/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Dena Vallano/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Elfego Felix/R9/USEPA/US@EPA,  
Date: 11/15/2012 01:01 PM  
Subject: annual network plans, core values

---

Meredith and Team,

Meredith shared a draft version of her annual network plan position paper with me, and as I discussed with her earlier, it captures many of the same concepts that I have started to articulate on my own. I wanted to share with you a list of core values that I have also identified, and now modified based on some additional information in Meredith's paper. I started to work on this after our network plan meeting last week when it became obvious that we needed to be more articulate (amongst ourselves) about just what we want to get out of this whole process. I appreciate all of you, and Meredith, helping to put this information down on paper.

If you have further thoughts on these values or objectives, or would like to suggest any others, please send them!

Matt

#### Annual Network Plan Reviews

##### Relevant Core Values

- High Quality Data (Defensibility, Basis for Improved Air Quality): We want to ensure that high quality data (data of appropriate quality?) is being collected. (Michael's "Quality")
- Transparency: We want to be transparent in our decision-making and communication with our partners.

- Fairness: We don't want to put agencies in a bad position unfairly (without notice, without the ability to affect change), but want to make the "right" decision (in line with legal requirements, and with the goal of air quality improvements and data quality) where warranted. Also, the public has a right to understand the basis of the existing air monitoring network.
- Efficiency: We don't want to spend any more time/effort than is necessary to accomplish our objectives.

#### Objectives with the Network Plan Review

- Our network plan review should serve as a proactive check that agencies continue to collect high quality data meeting CFR requirements (High Quality Data, Transparency, Fairness, Efficiency).
- An approvable network plan, and our documentation for approving that plan, should provide a sound basis for network adequacy determinations (Efficiency, Defensibility).
- The annual review could facilitate / serve as the mechanism for approval of network modifications (Efficiency).
- The network plan review should provide an opportunity for public communication and involvement (Fairness, Defensibility).

---

Matthew Lakin, Ph.D.  
Manager, Air Quality Analysis Office  
US EPA, Region 9 (AIR-7) | 75 Hawthorne St. | San Francisco, CA 94105  
P: 415.972.3851 | E: Lakin.Matthew@epa.gov